

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 INT-05 L-03 SOE-02 AID-05
CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 DOE-15 H-02
INR-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 ICA-20 OES-09
SP-02 SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 PA-02 /147 W
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FM AMCONSUL VANCOUVER

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4422

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

UNCLAS VANCOUVER 0992

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ENRG, PINT, CA

SUBJECT: YUKON INDIANS SAY THEIR CLAIMS TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER
GAS PIPELINE

REF: 77 VANCOUVER 1209 AND 1093

1. THE KEY YUKON INDIAN ORGANIZATIONS STATED IN A WHITEHORSE PRESS CONFERENCE ON JULY 27 THAT THEY WILL REFUSE TO PARTICIPATE FURTHER IN THE HEARINGS AND PUBLIC DISCUSSION OVER THE NORTHERN GAS PIPELINE, PLANNED FOR COMING MONTHS. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, THE LEADERSHIP OF THE YUKON NATIVE BROTHERHOOD, YUKON ASSOCIATION OF NON-STATUS INDIANS, COUNCIL FOR YUKON INDIANS AND YUKON INDIAN WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCED THAT "FUTURE CONSULTATION WILL NOT BE TO OUR BENEFIT," AND THAT "FOR US, THERE IS BUT ONE TERM AND CONDITION, AND THIS IS THE SETTLEMENT OF OUR CLAIMS BEFORE PIPELINE CONSTRUCTION BEGINS." (WHETHER THIS THREATENED BOYCOTT WILL INCLUDE NON-PARTICIPATION IN THE NEW YUKON ADVISORY COUNCIL IS NOT CLEAR. HOWEVER, AS OF LATE JULY, THE INDIAN GROUPS HAD REPORTEDLY NOT SUBMITTED ANY NOMINATIONS DESPITE HAVING BEEN INVITED TO DO SO.)

2. THIS RECENT EXPRESSION OF CONCERN OVER YUKON INDIAN LAND CLAIMS
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DOES NOT RAISE A NEW ISSUE, BUT IT DOES REPRESENT AN AGGRESSIVE STATEMENT OF THE INDIANS' LONG-HELD POSITION. THE JULY VISIT TO THE YUKON BY COMMISSIONER MITCHELL SHARP OF THE NORTHERN PIPELINE AGENCY AT BEST DID NOTHING TO ASSUAGE THE INDIAN CONCERNS, AS HE REPORTEDLY NOTED ON MORE THAN ONE OCCASION THAT HIS AGENCY WAS NOT INVOLVED WITH THE SETTLEMENT OF LAND CLAIMS. ITS JOB WAS, HE SAID, ONLY TO REGULATE THE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT. SHARP'S GENERAL APPROACH

TO PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN THE PLANNING PROCESS STRUCK THE WHITEHORSE
STAR AS SO UNINTERESTED THAT IT EDITORIALIZED ON JULY 20 THAT
"WE CAN ONLY PRESUME THAT TO (SHARP) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND
DEMOCRACY ARE A WASTE OF MONEY."
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Message Attributes

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